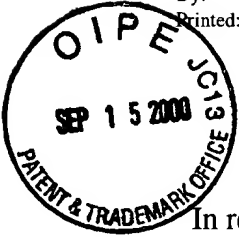


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By: Kathleen K. Muto
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Lal et al.

Title: HUMAN SIGNAL PEPTIDE-CONTAINING PROTEINS

Serial No.: 09/002,485

Filing Date: December 31, 1997

Examiner: Saoud, Christine

Group Art Unit: 1646

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Madam:

In response to the Office Action dated 09 June 2000, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the above-referenced patent application in view of the following amendments and remarks.

IN THE TITLE

Please amend the title of the application to replace:

"HUMAN SIGNAL PEPTIDE-CONTAINING PROTEINS"

with:

-- POLYNUCLEOTIDES ENCODING HUMAN SIGNAL PEPTIDE-CONTAINING
PROTEINS --

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 2-14 and 19-21 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend claims 1, 15, 16, 17, and 18 as follows (for the Examiner's convenience, all pending claims are reiterated below):